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NEWS OF THE DAY.

GENERAL NEWS.

Particulars of the death of W. P. Johnson, brother of the President, of which brief mention has already been made by telegraph, show that he died at Columbia, on the Brazos River, Oct. 24, from the effects of a gunshot wound, received accidentally, while taking a gun off a small boat in which the party crossed the river. The ball entered the hand and came out at the elbow, shattering the bone. Amputation was delayed until too late, and he suffered between three and four weeks before death relieved him. He leaves a widow and three children in Texas. His two oldest sons are in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Washington (D. C.) Board of Common Council have passed a resolution, nearly unanimously, that in the event that any bill be introduced in Congress for the admission of the colored men of Washington to the right of suffrage, the Mayor be authorized and directed to call the Council together for the purpose of taking into consideration measures for holding a special election, to ascertain the sentiments of the people on the subject. The Aldermen have not yet acted on the resolution.

The Controller has issued a circular to the Boards of Supervisors, which met yesterday in the several counties, stating that the information received, although not official, leaves no doubt that the people have voted in favor of the debt for the payment of bonds, and authorizing the omission of the tax of 12 per cent levied for that purpose. The State tax will, therefore, be only 43.80 mills on the dollar, instead of 55.80.

Mr. Bigelow, our Minister to Paris, announces that the Imperial Commission have extended the time (the 31st ultimo) at which, according to the original programme, the United States Commission at Paris was required to send in a plan of arrangement of our part of the exposition, to the 31st of January next. This leaves our citizens until about the 1st of January as the latest date at which their applications can be received.

The Portsmouth Chronicle learns that orders have been received to prepare the immense iron-clad Paconawagon, now lying on the stocks at the Portsmouth Navy Yard, for sea as soon as possible; also, that the steamers Minnesota, Maratanza and Helena are to be fitted out for sea immediately.

Washington L. Lane, managing editor of The Philadelphia Ledger, died in that city yesterday. He commenced his connection with The Ledger as reporter, 25 years since, during which period he earned an enviable reputation for constant attention to the interests of that journal.

Capt. Reginald, claiming to be an officer in the British East India service, was brought here yesterday from Ashland, Va., where he had been arrested on a charge of being concerned in the late attempt to defraud the Custom-House by withdrawing alcohol on fictitious bonds.

The Secretary of the Navy continues to reduce the naval forces of the United States. Beside the discharge of a large number of acting ensigns and gunners, 43 Acting-Assistant Engineers were honorably mustered out of the service during the month of October.

The Secretary of the Treasury, says a Washington special, in his forthcoming report will simply show how the unfunded portion of the public debt may be funded, and ask general and particular aid in the way of securities as may seem expedient to him.

A meeting was held last evening at the Cooper Union in behalf of the Ashmun Institute for the education of colored men, located at Oxford, Pa. Speeches were made by a number of clergymen, and appropriate resolutions passed.

An interesting oil case is before the Courts, showing how Petroleum stock may be "cornered," and revealing some of the peculiar operations of oil speculators, as will be seen by reference to our Law Reports.

St. George's Church, in Rutherford-pl., was almost entirely destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon, involving a loss of \$20,000. The pastor, the Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, was completely unharmed by the calamity.

Inquiry has been made in Washington respecting the rumors of trouble of a serious character on the Canadian border, but it does not seem that any verification of the report has yet reached the War Department.

Lavinia Lutz, a domestic, was committed to the Tombs yesterday on charge of murdering her babe, by throwing it into a sink, to avoid the disgrace of giving birth to an illegitimate child.

In the Fourth Assembly District of Albany County, Col. Joseph M. Murphy of the 7th Heavy Artillery, has been elected by one majority over Crawford, his Democratic opponent.

It has been stated that Preston King recently resigned his position as Collector of New-York. The Government, however, has received no letter from him to that effect.

In the quilt-pitching match for \$500 yesterday between William Tilton and James McLaren in Newark, N. J., the latter won the game by 18 points. Seven hundred and fifty bales of cotton passed Cairo for Cincinnati, 400 for St. Louis, and 120 arrived for the first named place, on Monday.

Gen. Grant held a levee at the Metropolitan yesterday, and a private reception will be given him this evening at the Union League Rooms.

There are additional rumors of a Presidential proclamation declaring peace, and the restoration of the Southern States to the Union.

A large fire at West Baxton, Me., yesterday, destroyed several factories, and laid the business portion of the town in ashes.

James P. Hewes, an old citizen of Brooklyn, committed suicide on Monday night by shooting himself through the heart.

A desperate affray occurred near Cincinnati on Monday, in which a woman was killed and one man seriously injured.

Judge Trigg, at Nashville, on Monday, refused to grant a writ of habeas corpus in the case of Dick McCann.

Gov. Hamilton of Texas, writes to the President that he expects to call a State Convention in December.

The intelligence of the death of Preston King occasioned much regret in official circles at Washington.

Gov. Morton of Indiana has appointed the 7th day of December as a day of thanksgiving and prayer.

The Internal Revenue receipts yesterday amounted to about \$700,000. Gold closed at 147 yesterday. Government stocks were again lower on the gold being lower, and steady upon the

Table. Railway mortgages are lower. Coal stocks are all strong, and in some lower with speculators. Railway shares are irregular. At the Second Board the extreme stock quotes were not sustained, nor was there much disposition to purchase. Money is comparatively easy among stock holders, but nothing under 7 1/2 per cent is accepted, and that is had readily. Best names sell at 1100 P cent, and second grade at 1000 P cent.

Advertisements for this WEEKLY TRIBUNE of this week must be handed in to-day.

The official returns of the elections are beginning to come in and already increase the Union majority by about 1,300. Barlow's majority is quite likely to reach 30,000.

John B. Gough lectured last evening on temperance to a crowded audience in Brooklyn. He speaks again, this evening, at Cooper Institute, in this city, and will, no doubt, draw, as he has always done, a large audience.

The appointment of Gen. John A. Logan as Minister to the Republic of Mexico is a suitable acknowledgment of his services as one of the most gallant soldiers of the war for the Union, and his not less earnest efforts on behalf of the Government and against its Copperhead opponents. His well-known opinions upon the Mexican question will make his appointment a very welcome one to the Liberals of Mexico and their friends in this country.

There are many rumors here and in Canada in reference to the suspicious and threatening movement of American troops toward the Canada frontier. One rumor is that this trouble arises from the Fenian movement; another that there is some little trouble about the return of the English deserters from Maine. We have a dispatch from Washington, however, which gives the comforting assurance that these rumors are like rumors generally—merely bubbles, with nothing in them.

We trust our friends, at least all who have an interest in the great French Exposition, will not forget that the time allowed to send contributions is limited to January 1. This, we believe, is a special privilege accorded to America. Mr. J. C. Derby, of this city, the agent on the part of the United States, will give all information to those who propose taking part in the display. America should make as good a display as possible in this exhibition, and show how well she can look after an exhausting war.

A committee of gentlemen from Illinois—S. H. Melvin, O. M. Hatch and E. B. Hawley—are now in New-York in behalf of the Lincoln Monument Association of Illinois. These gentlemen bring proper credentials. The State of Illinois has contributed \$55,000 to the object, and it is proposed to make the sum \$250,000. The Cemetery Association of Springfield, Illinois, has given seven acres of ground as a site for the monument. New-York should do her share toward placing a proper monument over the sacred dust of Lincoln.

RESUMPTION.

Suppose we should all awake on the morning of December 1, and learn that Two Hundred Millions or so of our Greenbacks had been funded and destroyed, and that the residue had thereupon appreciated to a par with coin, so that the Government and Banks had practically resumed Specie Payment: what then? What would be the public harm? and what the difficulty of holding the ground thus gained? In other words, what good is secured or retained by continuing to call seventy to seventy-five cents a dollar?

That individuals would suffer from a sudden (or slower) appreciation of our Greenback currency to a par with Specie, is undeniable. Whoever—not being rich—has run heavily into debt for Wheat or Flour, Corn or Pork, Teas or Silks, Cotton or Tobacco, at present prices, will find difficulty in paying if the prices of those articles are suddenly reduced twenty to fifty per cent. But what moral right had any man to plunge over ears in speculative debt when our Currency was so inflated and prices so exorbitant as they have been for many months past? If a large number of those who have been forcing up the money cost of the necessities of life, on the assumption that our Currency debauch must continue, and even increase, shall have burned their fingers by the operation, they must find sympathy and consolation in some other quarter than this.

As to other holders of products, they need no commiseration, and seek none. He who holds over so much Pork or Bacon, Flour or Coffee, cannot, of course, sell it for so many dollars after Resumption as now; but the fewer dollars will buy nearly or quite as much of whatever he may need or seek to acquire, as the greater number will now command. What odds that wages, for instance, fall from \$15 per week to \$10, if the \$10 will buy as much then as the \$15 now do?

Let us not be frightened by shadows. Resumption—immediate resumption—is practicable (by the aid of proper legislation) to-day—has been so ever since the Government ceased to require more money for its current outgoes than it is day by day receiving from Internal Taxes and Duties on Imports combined. Suspension was but a qualified National Insolvency. It was the substitution of Government promises for cash in hand, because the cash in adequate amounts was not to be had. The People were not individually overtaken; the Government was. For our own sakes and that of our imperiled country, we enacted that her promise to pay a dollar should be generally accepted in lieu of the dollar in hand. This was an extreme measure, but (we hold) one every way wise and patriotic. It saved our National Finances from utter collapse and our country from dismemberment. We supported it reluctantly but earnestly, and now rejoice that it prevailed. We have no doubt of its constitutionality as a war measure—a means essential to the great end of National preservation. But let any Congress enact such a measure in time of peace and thrift, and we should consider the case bravely altered.

—Now, then, what right has the Government to persist in the utterance of false tokens—engraved and printed lies? It is no dishonesty in any one suddenly overtaken by some great, unforeseen calamity, to ask his creditors to give him a year's forbearance on their several demands; but suppose the ordeal passed, prosperity returned, and his means once more adequate, can he honestly persist in substituting his indefinite promises for the cash he truly owes? Suppose he could make a pile of money by this course, what upright man would pursue it?

—But the Banks—what of them? How will they stand Resumption?

We answer—Those which have done and are doing a sound, wholesome business, will stand it easily enough; if there are others, their collapse will be a public good. Banks that can live only during Suspension may better cease to live at all.

The notion that Resumption will be signified by a general rush for Specie is utterly unwarranted. Specie payments have been repeatedly resumed here, but no general run for Specie has followed. Our Banks have been time and again driven into Suspension by a heavy press for Specie to go abroad; but let us resume to-morrow, and the export demand for Gold will be far less for the ensuing three months than it would be under Suspension. Resumption implies Contract; Contract lessens Importation; diminished Imports involve a reduced demand for Specie to go abroad. And, when the Government is not increasing its indebtedness and Europe is not draining us of Specie, our solvent Banks will not be seriously troubled for coin.

Here is a Bank with a capital of \$1,000,000 (Greenback) and a surplus of \$200,000, together equal to some \$825,000 in coin. Now suppose that Bank should lose its entire surplus in adapting itself to and passing through Resumption, leaving only its capital intact: it will now be worth \$1,000,000 in specie instead of \$825,000. Ought this prospect to appall the solvent?

Men of substance, of energy, of thrift! Resumption is your true policy. There is no other footing so firm as the solid granite. Let us commence next year's business thereon, instead of paying Greenback prices for materials and labor and selling our products for Coin prices. We can resume; hence we should.

PRESTON KING.

We are afraid we cannot resist the conclusion that Preston King is dead. The sad rumor that has been in the air for the last few hours seems to be verified by the strongest circumstantial evidence, and but little if any doubt remains that our eminent and honored fellow-citizen, in a moment of mental aberration, committed suicide. No announcement could cause more pain to the people of New-York, for there was much in the character of Mr. King that made men love him. Amiable, kind, gentle—the most genial and considerate of men—occupying at this time a relation to the President that made him the most envied among politicians, it seems unaccountable that he should so suddenly pass away and in this most melancholy manner.

Mr. King, at the time of his death, was approaching sixty years of age, having been born in Ogdensburg, N. Y., Oct. 14, 1806. He graduated at Union College and was admitted to the bar. He entered public life in 1834 as a member of the Assembly, and became the friend of Silas Wright, being next to him, the most popular and powerful man in the St. Lawrence District. In 1842 he went to Congress. When the Democratic party divided in 1848, he became a Barnburner, going to Utica and finally to Buffalo. He followed the logical consequences of this action and became a Republican—fighting the Nebraska measure—accepting the Republican nomination for Secretary of State in 1855, supporting Fremont in 1856, and being elected to the Senate in 1857. He served a full term, and remained in private life until the accession of Mr. Johnson to the Presidency, when he was made Collector of the Port, which office he held at the time of his death.

FIRST FRUITS OF RECONSTRUCTION.

We can best understand the success of the experiment of Reconstruction by looking at the results in many of the Southern States. It is six months since the President threw open the doors of the Union to the defeated Rebels, and invited all who were willing to become good citizens and obedient to the laws to enter and resume their seats at the old family board. History does not present an example of similar magnanimity. Men speak of the merciful revolution of William III., forgetting that William sent Fenwick to the scaffold, and bestowed the choicest estates of the Jacobites upon his supporters and favorites. We have punished no one for treason. Jefferson Davis was arrested for conspiring to commit murder, and as that charge has never been abandoned, we presume it is as a "murderer" he is now at Fortress Monroe. Clement C. Clay was imprisoned on the same charge. The men executed were executed as murderers. Wirz died as one guilty of murder. All the confiscated lands have not quite been restored, but the pardon that embraces Tredegar Anderson will soon envelop in its consoling folds every remaining Rebel.

Those who have criticised that policy certainly admit that the President's motives were kind and charitable. Perhaps we can no better illustrate that kindness than by remembering that to gratify the South he was willing to postpone justice to the negro. Those who know how deeply and earnestly the honest Northern heart felt on this subject will appreciate the sacrifice that the President was willing to make to propitiate the South. If any statesman commanded their gratitude, their support, their undeviating kindness, it was the President. They made protestations. They were the President's most sincere friends. They would show him the true devotion of a Southern heart. He was their bulwark against Radicalism. He would stand between them and "Abolition ghoulies." They, on their part, would be his most devoted supporters. They would take up arms for him as they took up arms against him, and under the fostering care of Andrew Johnson, poor white, but now President of all those States, they

would assist in building up a Republic that would rival in imperial grandeur the proudest days of the Commonwealth of Rome.

Well, we have tried them, and what? Let us go down to Louisiana. Here is a State rich in resources—her great metropolis overflowing with the good things that commerce can bring. This peace gave its people, and how have they answered it. In the first place, we have a Governor like Wells, an accident of the war, who took advantage of the peace to hold his place by pandering to the worst Rebel feelings. We find the negro downtrodden. Men are imprisoned for speaking their opinions about Negro Suffrage. The worst features of the slave laws are revived, and a large party is, with difficulty, dissuaded—dissuaded, let us own it—by such men as Beauregard and Hays from going to Mexico and bringing the runaway Rebel Allen back as Governor. The good results of former administrations are wiped away in an instant, and the Rebels, headed by military popinjays like Fullerton, are rapidly rushing their State back to the terror and gloom of the ante-Rebellion period. If we go into Mississippi, we find not only a refusal to allow the negroes the rights of jurors, but even the rights of witnesses. In South Carolina, the Rebels almost force Wade Hampton into the gubernatorial chair, merely because such action would be a defiance to the President. As for the Rebel debt, she will pay her share, this rebellious Carolina, dollar for dollar. As for the Constitutional Amendment, it comes by compulsion. South Carolina will vote for it now, that she may kick open the doors of Congress and stand before the Speaker's chair with six electoral votes in her hand—six votes, to our shame be it spoken, that represent a poorer as great as Connecticut, with eighty thousand white men less. Then we come to North Carolina, and find Jonathan Worth elected Governor because Holden was the choice of the President. Not one word about the Constitutional Amendment. As with these States it is everywhere throughout the South. What one State has come back frankly, and accepted all the issues of the war, even the issues of the President? For the temporary purpose of an argument, we will lay aside Manhood Suffrage. What Southern State has accepted all the Presidential propositions? Not one; and for this reason only that the Rebels will not concede one jot or tittle toward reconstructing a Union that does not eternalize Slavery and strengthen the power of the slaveholders. They know full well that if we leave the negro in their hands a freed man, and allow them to group around him laws as degrading as those of South Carolina, they will have little trouble in perpetuating a system more degrading than Slavery—in this, that it gives the master power over the negro, and at the same time releases him from any pecuniary or personal responsibility.

Let us emphasize these two points. The Rebels play for a winning game. "Let us," they say, "kick open the doors of Congress, and what then? We have our apportionment increased; for, the negro being free, he must be counted man for man. At home, we have negro labor at slave prices, and no responsibility. We may turn the negro out to the commons when he is seventy, just as we turn out horses. Our laws compel him to work for us—we may do as we please with him. The Government has released us from our obligation to the negro, and placed an obligation upon him. Altogether, we have made a jolly exchange and trumped the Yankees nicely in their own game." These gentlemen of the South mean to win. They meant it in 1861 when they opened fire on Sumter. They meant it in 1865 when they sent a bullet through the brain of Abraham Lincoln. They mean it now. The moment we remove the iron hand from the Rebels' throats they will rise and attempt the mastery. If South Carolina adopts the amendment, she does it under compulsion—the compulsion of a dispatch from Washington. South Carolina can well afford to adopt the amendment when she is permitted to reenact the slave-code. The power that compels this action on her part is the power that could have compelled her to grant Manhood Suffrage six months ago. The danger of our reconstruction is that we trifle with our own power—that, instead of waiting until the prodigal really comes home, we send the fattened calf to him. We do not give the true men of the South a chance. If with all our power we permit such men as Durant in Louisiana, Hamilton of Texas, and even the conservative Holden in North Carolina, to be overhauled and beaten by returned Rebels, how can we expect Parents and Hamiltons and Holdens to rise up in the South? When Union men find they can only rise by eating Rebel dirt, we shall have a crop of Wells politicians over the South living on this unwholesome diet. Therefore, we not only break faith with the negro, but with the true Union men—with those who went into the caves with Andrew Johnson, and with him suffered for their principles. The first fruits of reconstruction promise a most deplorable harvest, and the sooner we gather the tares, plow the ground again, and sow new seed, the better.

GRAVES, INTERROGATORY.

Mr. Bernard Graves, of Mahaska, Iowa, asks us sundry questions as to the views of the Republican party on certain points relative to Negroes, Social Equality, Common-School Education, the Right of Suffrage, &c. When the Republican party shall have authorized us to speak in its name and declare its opinions on all manner of questions, we shall have great pleasure in doing so; until then, we can only speak for it as to points where its views have been authoritatively set forth, which happen not to include those mooted by Mr. Graves. But, if he shall at any time consider our own views on any point worth an inquiry, we shall be happy to satisfy his curiosity; meanwhile, we need only say that our political and social creed is very fairly epitomized in the preamble to the Declaration of Independence, drafted by one Thomas Jefferson, and sanctioned by Ben. Franklin, John Adams, and other hot-headed "Radicals" of forty years ago. If Mr. Graves will carefully, thoughtfully consider that preamble, and tell us

how far he concurs in its propositions, and wherein he deems them erroneous, he will enable us to answer any questions he may wish to ask, with the utmost lucidity and the least possible waste of words on points, no longer in dispute.

Will he be kind enough to make the attempt?

BUREAUCRACY IN LOUISIANA.

Mr. Conway, late Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau for Louisiana, publishes a narrative of the condition of affairs in that State, calculated to excite the liveliest apprehensions. That Mr. Conway was friendly enough to the negroes to make him odious to the Rebels, we knew beforehand. That, directly or indirectly, their enmity procured his removal, we also knew. From the account which we take to be his, it now appears that the proximate cause of his dismissal was his effort to carry out the provisions of the law under which the Bureau was organized in relation to land. He was about to lease sixty thousand abandoned or confiscated acres. The measure was resolved on by Gen. Howard, who had lately investigated on the spot the whole question. Of his authority over the lands the act establishing the Bureau is the best evidence. The fourth section provides that the Commissioner, under the direction of the President, shall have authority to set apart for the use of loyal refugees and freedmen such tracts of land within the insurrectionary States as shall have been abandoned, or to which the United States shall have acquired title by sale or otherwise—assigning forty acres to each male citizen, &c. Unless the President interfered, therefore, the purpose of Congress was to be carried out. But the President seems to have considered the needs of the freedmen less urgent than those of the former owners who desired both their land and the removal of Mr. Conway, and who have been gratified in both particulars. Yet as the measure was Gen. Howard's, why should not Gen. Howard be removed also?

Gen. J. S. Fullerton, who succeeded Mr. Conway, signified his appearance upon the scene by issuing an address, in which he told the freedmen that they must either work or leave the country, and that the Bureau would "compel" by military force the observance of such contracts as the Commissioner on the one side and the planter on the other might agree upon for the blacks. It is evident that Gen. Fullerton slightly misunderstood the purpose of the Bureau, and considered that the interests of the planters as against the cruelty, avarice and hatred of the negroes, required protection at his hands. To the same extent he felt bound to consider the feelings and respect the prejudices of the dominant race in New-Orleans. He found certain colonies for aged and helpless freedmen whom the planters had turned off their estates, established in that city. Organized upon an economical basis, these colonies were self-supporting, or nearly so, but they were odious to the whites, and Gen. Fullerton directed the breaking up of all but one. He found two orphan asylums—a sort of institution not heretofore deemed a blot upon civilization, and not the object of special hatred since a similar asylum in New-York was burned down by the rioters in July, '64. Fired by the holy zeal which animated the mob that Virginian Andrews led, Gen. Fullerton decreed the destruction of the New-Orleans charities. He ordered the orphans to be apprenticed. What apprenticeship means in Louisiana may be judged from the applications of the old slaveholders for "nice fat nigger-girls," and for "little niggers to black boots and do dirty work around the yards"—may be judged also from the fact that these ungrateful orphans, insensible to the attractions of the future thus opened before them, actually ran away from the asylums to escape the apprenticeship. Finally, it may be judged from the order of Gen. Canby who, on learning of the edict which Gen. Fullerton had issued, countermanded it, partly on the ground that the asylums which the Commissioner was so eager to suppress did not lie under the jurisdiction of the Freedmen's Bureau, being in charge of two different philanthropic associations at the North. Gen. Fullerton had not thought it worth while to consult the agents of these associations before undoing the results of their patient and benevolent work.

Next, Gen. Fullerton issued an order to the police to arrest all unemployed colored people in the city. Under this order, says the account from which we quote, more men and women were arrested in one day than during the three months preceding. Colored troops who the day before were mustered out of the army after having served three years, were arrested and borne through the streets by the police. Laborers on their way home from the levee, where they had loaded cotton all day long, were snatched up and carried off, in some instances chained together. This order also Gen. Fullerton was forced to revoke, yet he did not go without his reward for having issued it. As a token of gratitude and respect for his efforts in their behalf, the "old citizens"—meaning not loyal blacks, but Rebel, or at least Reconstructed, whites—tendered their protector a dinner. Whether Gen. Fullerton did or did not eat his dinner, history strangely omits to declare, but his next move was to abolish the tribunals established by the Bureau to do justice to the freedmen, and remit all cases arising between blacks and whites to the courts of the State. Specimens of the decisions of these courts are at hand. In one of them a freedman has lately been sentenced to receive forty lashes on his bare back. In another, the magistrate refused even to hear "the testimony of any nigger or freedman." Others refused to recognize in any manner whatever the liberty of any negro not free before the war.

perceive what the freedmen can gain by such a change, or of what possible benefit to the freedmen the Freedmen's Bureau can be, if it is to be administered by such officers.

THE BURNING OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH.—Every lover of architecture will regret to hear of the partial destruction by fire of St. George's Church, Stuyvesant-square—known, after our American fashion, as Dr. Tyng's. Our reporter has given the particulars of the affair elsewhere. We wish to express here our sorrow at the loss of so fine a building. The towers, indeed, are still standing, and the walls, whether the walls are uninjured by the heat cannot be told till after a careful inspection by experienced builders. If they shall prove capable of again supporting a roof like the noble one which has just fallen, we have the satisfaction of knowing that the able architect who built it, is with us still, and can build a better one if need be. This church was Leopold Eidlitz's best work—and he has given us many fine buildings that will endure. To him it is right belongs to rebuild it; and doubtless the trustees are as ready to congratulate themselves as we are that no hands less skillful than his need be called on to restore the church of which they and their fellow-citizens were so justly proud.

SALE OF PICTURES BY MINER & SOMERVILLE.—A collection of 132 oil-paintings and fine water-color drawings will be sold at auction, to-night and to-morrow night, by Miner & Somerville, at their rooms, No. 245 Broadway. Compared with the Artist-Portfolio of the present exhibition of the Artist-Fund Society, the collection is a most interesting evidence of the superiority of the lowest Dutch, Belgian and modern Italian art over our own. A higher standard of comparison might not be as favorable to the claims of this gallery. Those who wish to know just what is the worth of honorable mention in a French exhibition, may satisfy their curiosity by studying the works of the Brothers Induno. Without any wish to flatter these gentlemen, we assure our readers that their pictures are really worthy of honorable mention, even in a collection which, among other works of value, boasts at least one by Mr. T. P. Rosseter.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1865.

REDUCTION IN THE DEPARTMENTS.—Senator Sherman of Ohio recently stated that it was the intention to greatly reduce the clerical force in the different Civil Departments of the Government, retaining only those whose services are indispensable, and increasing their salaries proportionately.

IN MEMORIAM.

By order of the Secretary of War, the name of Fort Richmond in New-York Harbor has been changed to Fort Wadsworth in honor of the memory of Gen. Wadsworth, killed in the battle of the Wilderness.

MUSTERED OUT.

The following Companies of the Veteran Reserve Corps having expressed their desire to be discharged from the military service, were mustered out to-day in accordance with the recent order from the War Department.

A. C. B. E. G. I. and K of the 12th Regiment Veteran Reserve Corps, B. C. D. E. I. and K of the 24th, B. C. D. E. and F of the 14th; C and H of the 18th, and Co. D of the 7th.

Rolls of other detachments desirous of being mustered out are in course of preparation.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

The receipts from Internal Revenue to-day amounted to about \$700,000.

PRESTON KING.

The announcement received here this evening of the disappearance and probable death of Preston King created intense excitement, and THE TRIBUNE'S Office was thronged with prominent New-Yorkers and others in quest of information, and all are moved by the most painful solicitude.

MASSACHUSETTS WAR CLAIMS.

Gov. Andrew left for Massachusetts this evening, having effected a final adjustment of the war claims of that State upon the General Government.

PERSONAL.

John Minor Botts, Kenneth Raynor and Gov. Ward are in town to-night. Mr. Raynor having had two protracted interviews with the President concerning the relations and interests of the freedmen, received a ten days leave of absence, and starts for Boston to-morrow in the interest of that Bureau.

HIGH PRICES IN WASHINGTON.—ADJUSTING CONGRESS TO PHILADELPHIA.

Owing to the unprecedented and extortionate demands of hotel-keepers and house-owners here, quite a number of Congressmen have engaged apartments for the next session in Baltimore, where the price of living and room rent are not one-eighth part of Washington rates. A party of members now here and unable to get quarters for anything like their Congressional pay, have determined to test by resolution the question of adjusting the coming session to Philadelphia, immediately after its organization, and the project has the promised support of every member who has been consulted.

TEXAS.—A CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER.

Gov. Hamilton of Texas writes to the President that he expects to call a State Convention in December.

A CANARD.

All knowledge of the reported embezzlement of the Maine frontier was denied at Department headquarters to-night.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The North Carolina Committee were at the White House again to-day, but failed of an interview with the President on account of a Cabinet session.

THE PAY DEPARTMENT.

Orders were issued from the Paymaster-General's office, a few days ago, to Gen. Leslie, Chief Paymaster of the Department of the East, directing him to order the following named additional Paymasters to close up accounts, turn over funds and prepare for mustering: Messrs. Haywood, Evans, Haggood, Holman, Hoyt, Dye, Dewey, Thayer, Sims and Van Alstyne. This makes 12 officers of the Pay Corps in the Eastern Department mustered out of service within the last two weeks. Similar discharges have been made in the various other departments. The entire additional corps will be abolished or merged into the regular department by the first of the new year. Paymasters Blair and Oakley have resigned.

WIRZ AND THE CABINET MEMBER.

The Washington Intelligencer of Tuesday says: The following we have forbore to publish, in common with our contemporaries, because hitherto we had no assurance that it was substantially true:

A STRANGE STORY—EXTRAORDINARY OFFER BY A MEMBER OF THE CABINET.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10.—Mr. Scholde says he was called upon by several persons last night, as was also Father Boyle, who communicated information purporting to come from a member of the Cabinet, to the effect that if Wirz would acknowledge that Jeff. Davis was connected with the atrocities at Andersonville, his sentence should be commuted. Although Mr. Scholde did not place full confidence in the reports, he considered it his duty to relate what took place between himself and the prisoner at his last conference, with him. Capt. Wirz, in reply to a question, said: "Mr. Scholde, you know I have always told you that I do not know anything about Andersonville, and had no connection with me as to what was done at Andersonville, and if I knew he had I would not become a traitor against him or any one else to save my life."

The annual Convention of Unitarian clergymen at the West will meet at Joplin, Mo., Nov. 29, and continue during that and the two following days. The annual sermon will be preached by the Rev. A. D. Mayo of Cincinnati on the first day.